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SCHAKOWSKY SPEAKS OUT AGAINST ESCALATION IN IRAQ

WASHINGTON, DC--U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, a founding member of the Out of Iraq Caucus,

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents in Illinois to say, as strongly as possible for myself and for

Tragically, the President and his Administration are dealing with an Iraq that exists only in their imagination.

Bob Herbert said it well in Monday's New York Times: "We need to stop pretending that there is something

Each time that the Bush Administration has proclaimed that we must "stay the course" because the war

May, 2003, President Bush declared "Mission Accomplished."

By the end of 2003, 486 of our troops were dead and 2,408 were wounded, and yet, we stayed the course.

In June, 2004, President Bush said, "We're handing over authority to a sovereign Iraqi government... A

By the end of 2004 – 1,334 of our troops were killed and 10,408 were wounded, and yet, we stayed the

In June, 2005 Vice President Cheney said, "I think they're in the last throes, if you will, of the insurgency

And in December 2005, President Bush said "... the year 2005 will be recorded as a turning point in the

By the end of 2005 -- 2,180 of our troops were killed and 16,354 were wounded, and yet, we stayed the

In May 2006, President Bush called the formation of a new Iraqi government "a turning point."

By the end of 2006, 3,001 of our troops were killed and 22,736 were wounded, and yet, we stayed the c

Just last month Vice President Cheney proclaimed, "Well, I think if you look at what's transpired in Iraq..

And President Bush told us that his new strategy to escalate the war in Iraq "will change America's cours

Since those remarks, made just days ago, more than 120 troops are dead. And yet, once again, we are

My colleagues across the aisle want to characterize this troop increase – the 4th escalation – as a new c

And the Administration continues the charade that if you don't support this war and this escalation, then

From day one, our troops were sent into the war theater without the proper equipment to maximize their

Just last month the Pentagon's Inspector General found that the Defense Department hasn't been able t

Imagine! This war is costing \$12 MILLION every hour, 24/7, for four years – more than half a trillion dollars.

The executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America recently said of our returning soldiers:

\$12 million an hour to wage this war and our veterans are returning home without the proper care they need.

Our support for the troops compels us to oppose this war and this escalation. Of the terrible options the

Speaker Pelosi has said that our goal is to END this war. We can begin right here, right now by passing

Thank you Mr. Speaker.